

Statute of the Mobility and Reintegration Programme of the Slovak Academy of Sciences

**- full wording including Amendment 1 approved by SAS
Presidium in April 2019 (resolution No. 375. C) and
Amendment 2 approved by SAS Presidium in March 2023
(resolution No. 543. C)**

Article I

Introductory provisions

The Mobility and Reintegration Programme of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (MoRePro; hereinafter referred as “*Programme*”) aims to bring top scientists¹ into the SAS workplaces. On the one hand, it is an attempt to provide them with adequate and motivating conditions for their scientific work, on the other, these scientists are expected to improve the research environment and scientific outcomes. SAS seeks to attract future leaders who will develop research topics competitive in an international context. This document is full wording of the Statute of SAS Mobility and Reintegration programme in wording of its approved Amendment No.1.

Article II

Basic Programme policies

1. The Programme is dedicated both for scientists working abroad as well as for scientists working in the Slovak Republic. The eligible applicant may not be an employee of the SAS organization 12 months prior to submission of application, with the exception of applicants after a long-term stay abroad lasting at least 3 years, who were employed no more than 6 months before submitting the application.
2. The incoming scientist must be the holder of the PhD or an equivalent title at the time of application (assessed under the ERC approach to this issue). The incoming scientist is not limited by age or work experience after obtaining PhD. or an equivalent title.
3. Applications to the Programme shall be submitted on the basis of a call announced annually by the SAS Presidium (hereinafter referred as “*PSAS*”). The SAS reserves the right not to announce a call for applications (e.g. due to insufficient financial resources, etc.). Notification of a call for a given year will be published well in advance.
4. Estimated number of approved projects under one call is 10. The success rate of projects under the call (i.e. the proportion of approved projects and applications filed) cannot be higher than 50%. SAS P reserves the right not to approve any project for funding.
5. Only the SAS scientific organization may be the host organization for the incoming scientist. In case the project is approved for funding, the host organization employs the incoming scientist as full-time employee for fixed term.
6. Duration of individual projects is max. 4 years. After the first 2 years, project performance and fulfilment of pre-determined conditions will be evaluated. In case of positive assessment when the project is being implemented well and the conditions are met, the project will be approved for funding for another 2 years. Otherwise, project funding will be suspended.
7. When submitting the application the incoming scientist commits to obtain also another grant to finance the project during the first 2 years, whether from domestic or

¹ To simplify wording, only the masculine form of certain nouns is used throughout the statute, e.g. scientist, researcher, researcher, leader, etc.; however, such a designation always includes both men and women.

foreign sources. The incoming scientist also commits to submit a project to obtain an ERC grant² during the first 2 years of the project.

Article III

Preparation and filing of the application

1. The application shall be completed in accordance with an application template to be published at the time of the call announcing. Using a particular template is important for the ability to compare all applications. An application that will not be completed using the published template will not be included in the expert evaluation and will be discarded.
2. The application contains the parts needed to assess the quality of the incoming scientist, the host organization and the proposed research topic, in particular:
 - structured CV of the incoming scientist, including stating the scientific activities and outputs;
 - host organization description;
 - Commitment Letter of the host organization with obligation to employ the incoming scientist and to provide him with the necessary resources and infrastructure, if project approved for funding
 - the scientific project itself;
 - project budget;
 - Declaration of compliance of the project with the program's ethical rules, Consent to the collection and processing of personal data, Declaration of data veracity and others.
3. The method of filing the application will be determined by SAS when the call is announced.

Article IV

Eligibility criteria

1. The eligible applicant for the Programme is the holder of the PhD. or an equivalent title who may not be an employee of the SAS organization 12 months prior to submission of application, with the exception of applicants after a long-term stay abroad lasting at least 3 years, who were employed no more than 6 months before submitting the application. Researchers can apply, regardless of their citizenship and country of residence or activity. Applicants shall be treated on non-discriminatory basis.
2. The organization eligible to employ an incoming scientist is the scientific organization of the SAS.
3. The topic of the applications or the scientific area covering the applications are not addressed. The topic of the application must correspond to the research conducted by the host organization or its intended future focus. The topic of the application must not be in conflict with European and / or national legislation. The application must be drawn up in English, using the template specified and submitted in the manner specified by the call announcer, before the deadline for filing applications.

Article V

Evaluation of applications

1. The evaluation process is two-round.

² <https://erc.europa.eu/>

2. The first round assess the fulfilment of technical and formal requirements and eligibility criteria. In the case of minor errors, inaccuracies or missing data, the applicant will be asked to correct or supplement it. Within this process, it is not possible to change the content of the research project or to make significant changes to the application.

3. Applications that have successfully passed the first round of assessment shall proceed to the second round. In the second round at least 3 foreign independent evaluators - experts in the given field- assess the application. Subsequently, the application is also assessed by the relevant evaluation committee. There are 3 evaluation committees and are always composed of top domestic and foreign scientists operating in the fields of science that fall under the direction of the committees:

- The Evaluation Committee for Physical, Space, Earth and Engineering Sciences
- The Evaluation Committee for Life, Chemical, Medical and Environmental Sciences
- The Evaluation Committee for Social Sciences, Humanities, Arts and Culture

4. The evaluation criteria against which applications are assessed are as follows:

- Quality, ability and experience of the applicant (previous scientific experience, scientific results, ability to successfully implement the project, domestic / international cooperation, mobility experience, leadership and other skills);
- Ability and capability of the applicant to submit a project to obtain an ERC grant;
- Quality of the host organization and the ability to provide conditions for the implementation of the project (research focus, domestic and international cooperation, outputs, projects, resources and capacities, infrastructure);
- Quality and adequacy of the research project (originality, frontier research, inter- and multidisciplinary, proposed methodology, time schedule and feasibility of project activities, project adequacy in terms of candidate's skills and experience, and the quality and focus of the host organization, planned outcomes);
- Impact of the planned project (on the candidate's career, on the host organization, on the research field and on the scientific community, possible transfer of results).

5. Evaluation of applications is realized preferably remotely. The SAS Presidium may decide that a personal presentation of the candidate with the participation of representatives of the host organization shall be also a part of the evaluation.

6. Both the applicant and the host organization are informed electronically about the results of the first and second round of evaluation.

Article VI

Project financing

1. The project funds are provided in the following categories:

Incoming scientist's salary - The programme funds shall be used for the incoming scientist's salary³ and a personal bonus (overall at least EUR 1000 per month - gross wage). In case incoming scientist is approved and employed, the host organization commits itself to pay to incoming scientist a salary bonus of EUR 1000 per month (gross wage). Contribution to research - EUR 5000 per year for non-laboratory projects and EUR 10000 per year for laboratory projects.

³ Act no. 553/2003 Coll. on the remuneration of some employees in the performance of work in the public interest and on the amendment and supplementation of certain acts

- Overhead costs of the host organization - maximum up to 20% of the Contribution to research.

2. The funds shall be transferred to the host organization on the basis of the Grant agreement concluded between the host organization and the SAS. The terms of this agreement will also include the conditions for the use of funds.

3. The funds allocated to the project must be used in a cost-effective, efficient, purposeful manner and in demonstrable relation to the planned activities of the project.

Article VII Interim and final reports

1. Part of the project implementation and financing conditions is the requirement to submit an interim and final report related to project implementation.

2. The interim report is submitted at the end of the 2nd year of project implementation. The interim report is evaluated by the relevant evaluation committee, or if the evaluation committee is not established, the interim report is evaluated by a special committee consisting of two members of the SAS Presidium for the relevant scientific section. The members of the special committee are appointed and dismissed by the President of the SAS. The interim report also includes a financial report from the project implementation. The evaluation of the interim report also includes a personal presentation of the incoming scientist with the participation of representatives of the host organization. Based on the evaluation of the interim report, the project is either approved or not approved for further funding. The recommendation of the evaluation committee or the special committee is subsequently approved by the SAS Presidium.

3. The final report is submitted at the end of the project implementation. The final report is evaluated by the relevant evaluation committee, or if the evaluation committee is not established, the final report is evaluated by a special committee consisting of two members of the SAS Presidium for the relevant scientific department. The members of the special committee are appointed and dismissed by the President of the SAS. The final report also includes a financial report from the project implementation. The evaluation of the final report also includes a personal presentation of the incoming scientist with the participation of representatives of the host organization. On the basis of the evaluation of the final report, the P SAS will issue a decree on the fulfilment/non-fulfilment of the project's objectives.

4. Templates of interim and final reports will be provided well in advance.

5. SAS Presidium reserves the right to determine even more frequent evaluation of the project.

Article VIII Final provisions

1. This Statute shall enter into force upon the date of its approval by the PSAS and becomes effective upon the date of its publication.

2. All changes of the Statute must be approved by the PSAS as written numbered amendments of the Statute.

In Bratislava on 09. 03. 2023

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prof. RNDr. Pavol Šajgalík, DrSc.

President of the Slovak Academy of Sciences